## Message Text

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**ORIGIN ARA-06** 

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P 031935Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN REQUEST FOR IDB LOAN DISBURSEMENT EXTENSION

REF: BOGOTA 2993

FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. AT MY DIRECTION ARA/LA HAS CONDUCTED A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE COLOMBIAN REQUEST FOR THE U.S. TO SUPPORT A SECOND ONE-YEAR DISBURSEMENT EXTENSION TO AN IDB LOAN FOR RURAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION. CONSENSUS IN THE DEPARTMENT, WITH WHICH I CONCUR, IS TO SUPPORT THE BANK MANAGEMENT IN THIS MATTER AND NOT TO VOTE IN FAVOR CONFIDENTIAL

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OF AN EXTENSION - SHOULD THE COLOMBIANS RAISE THE ISSUE

IN THE BANK (SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT).

- 2. IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH GOC OFFICIALS TO RESPOND TO THEIR PAST APPROACHES ON THIS MATTER, YOU MAY MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
- (A) STANDING U.S. POLICY IS TO SUPPORT IDB BANK MANAGEMENT IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE IDB DISBURSEMENT RATES AND TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE PIPELINES.
- (B) IF THE U.S. GOES ALONG WITH THIS REQUEST IT WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEEK U.S. SUPPORT WHEN THERE IS DISAGREEMENT WITH BANK MANAGEMENT AS IS THE CASE IN THE COLOMBIAN REQUEST.
- (C) OUR OBJECTIVE CONTINUES TO BE TO KEEP TECHNICAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, AND FINANCIAL CRITERIA THE DETERMINING FACTORS IN QUESTIONS OF THE U.S. VOTE ON DISBURSEMENT EXTENSIONS. THE U.S. NEEDS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE LARGER, RELATIVELY MORE DEVELOPED, COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE IN QUESTIONS SUCH AS THESE.
- (D) THE U.S. IS SYMPATHETIC TO COLOMBIA'S PROBLEM.
  WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE RURAL ROAD SYSTEM CAN BE
  COMPLETED PERHAPS THROUGH ANOTHER LOAN FROM THE IDB.
- (E) THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED THE EXTENSION OF DISBURSEMENT DATES FOR A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF IDB LOANS IN THE PAST. IN ALL OF THEM THERE HAVE BEEN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES NOT PRESENT IN THE COLOMBIAN CASE (SUPPORT OF BANK MANAGEMENT, INTERNAL IDB DELAYS, SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH SUBLENDERS THAT HAD TO BE HONORED, COUNTRIES IN DIRE ECONOMIC STRAITS THAT NEEDED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SUCH AS URUGUAY, BOLIVIA, NICARAGUA).
- (F) THE U.S. IS CURRENTLY OPPOSING DISBURSEMENT EXTENSIONS TO TWO 1967 ARGENTINE LOANS. WE ARE SURE THAT OTHER POSSIBLE REQUESTS NEVER CAME TO A VOTE IN ANTICIPATION OF U.S. OPPOSITION. CONFIDENTIAL

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- 3. SHOULD THE SPECIFIC CASES OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR RECENT DISBURSEMENT EXTENSIONS FOR URUGUAYAN AND BRAZILIAN LOANS BE RAISED, YOU SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:
- (A) URUGUAY LOAN FOR REFRIGERATOR PLANTS: THE BANK SUPPORTS THE EXTENSION; THERE ARE SUNK COSTS CONSISTING

OF HALF BUILT REFRIGERATOR PLANTS; THE IDB IS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR DELAYS; THERE ARE OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS TO SUB-CONTRACTORS; THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS FACTOR AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE IMPACT; URUGUAY IS IN DIRE ECONOMIC STRAITS.

(B) BRAZILIAN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION: THE TWELVE
MONTH EXTENSION GRANTED IN FEBRUARY 1975 TO DISBURSE
4,023,000 MILLION DOLLARS (13 PERCENT) OF THE 30 MILLION
DOLLARS LOAN IS DUE TO OUTSTANDING CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS
TO SUB-CONTRACTORS (SIGNED LETTERS OF COMMITMENT) THAT

MUST BE HONORED. THE BANK MANAGEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED THIS EXTENSION.

4. A PRINCIPAL FACTOR IN OBTAINING U.S. SUPPORT IN THESE MATTERS IS THE POSITION OF IDB MANAGEMENT. WE TEND TO SUPPORT THEIR VIEW. SHOULD THE GOC CONVINCE THE IDB MANAGEMENT THAT THE COLOMBIAN CASE IS EXCEPTIONAL ENOUGH TO MERIT AN EXTENSION, THE U.S. WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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